MR. N. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Secretary to Government*): Yes. The Chief Engineer has been consulted in the matter.

MR. KURANDIPALLIL R. RAMAN PILLAI (*Quilon*): അദ്ദേഹം ഇതു അത്യാവശ്യമാണെന്നോ ഇല്ലെന്നോ എന്താണ് മറുപടി പറഞ്ഞതു?

MR. N. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Secretary to Government*): It is necessary but not pressingly necessary.

MR. KURANDIPALLIL R. RAMAN PILLAI (*Quilon*): ഇനിമേലെങ്കിലും ഉറപ്പിതമായി ഇതിനെപ്പറ്റി അന്വേഷിക്കാൻ മയവുണ്ടാകുമോ?

MR. N. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Secretary to Government*): Places at the Bar are always more dangerous than elsewhere. Government are not aware that that the particular bar is more dangerous than other bars.

MR. KURANDIPALLIL R. RAMAN PILLAI (*Quilon*): കൊല്ലത്തു തേവള്ളിക്കടവിൽ വളരെക്കാലമായി ഒരു പാലമുണ്ടായിരുന്നതു് ഇപ്പോഴത്തെ മാസക്കാലമായിട്ടു അവിടെയില്ലെന്നു അറിയാമൊ?

MR. N. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Secretary to Government*): It has already been enquired into. Government are in touch on that matter with the Chief Engineer.

MR. KURANDIPALLIL R. RAMAN PILLAI (*Quilon*): അവിടെ ഒരു പാലമില്ലാത്തതു നിമിത്തം ജനങ്ങൾ വളരെ സങ്കടമനുഭവിച്ചു വരുന്നു എന്നു ഗവർമെണ്ടിനറിയാമൊ?

MR. N NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Secretary to Government*): That question does not arise out of the answer to the first part of the question.

Filling up of the vacancies of Divisional Treasury Officers.

101. MR. K. I. JOSEPH (*Minachil* cum *Devicolam*): Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) the number of permanent vacancies that arose in the posts of Divisional Treasury Officers in the State during 1102;

(*b*) the permanent arrangements, if any, made by the Government to fill up these vacancies; and

(*c*) if no such arrangements were made, the reasons for keeping the vacancies open?

MR. K. N. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Financial Secretary to Government*):

(*a*) Three; two vacancies arose early in the year and one at the close of it.

(*b*) Substantive appointments have not yet been made to these posts.

(*c*) The matter is under the consideration of the Government.

MR. K. I. JOSEPH (*Minachil* cum *Devicolam*): With reference to part (*c*) of the answer may I know the reason why these vacancies are not yet filled up by the Government?

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MR. K. N. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Financial Secretary to Government*) : It has already been stated that the matter is under the consideration of the Government. It is a mere question of the filling up of an appointment.

MR. K. I. JOSEPH (*Minachil* cum *Devicolam*) : I rise to a point of order. I wish to know whether this is a straight way of answering my question. My question is about the reasons for keeping these vacancies open and the answer is that the matter is pending condsideration of the Government. Even without such an answer from the official member anybody can understand that the matter must be under the consideration of Government. My question is what the particular reasons are which induce Government to take such a long time to dispose of this matter.

It is when we get such replies from the other side of the House that we are prompted to ask questions which partake of the nature of cross-examining the official members.

PRESIDENT : The inference I draw from the answer is that Government have still the matter under their consideration and have not yet decided upon the reasons for filling it up.

MR. K. I. JOSEPH (*Minachil* cum *Devicolam*): I wish to know the particular reasons why this matter is pending the consideration of Government for more than one year.

MR. K. N. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Financial Secretary to Government*) : I have stated that out of the three vacancies one arose only recently.

MR. K. I. JOSEPH (*Minachil* cum *Devicolam*) : I wish to know the particular reasons why the question of filling up the other two vacancies which arose in the early part of 1102 is still pending consideration?

MR. K. N. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Financial Secretary to Government*) ; It is not possible to make a mention of all the reasons in a case like that.

MR. K. I. JOSEPH (*Minachil* cum *Devicolam*) : May I know the more important reasons?

MR. K. N. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Financial Secretary to Government*): I am afraid I cannot make any statement. It is a matter purely affecting one or two officers.

MR. K. I. JOSEPH (*Minachil* cum *Devicolam*) : I am not concerned with matters concerning particular individuals. I am only concerned with certain matters of public interest *viz.*, the keeping open of certain vacancies, for more than a year.

PRESIDENT : The Financial Secretary has just told you that it is not more than a year.

MR. K. I. JOSEPH (*Minachil* cum *Devicolam*) : The answer given to the question is that two of the vacancies arose early in 1102. Now it is Vrischikam 1103 and I think it must therefore be more than a year since these vacancies have been kept open.

MR K. N. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Financial Secretary to Government*) : It is a matter affecting purely one or two officers and I regret that I cannot see eye to eye with the member as to the public importance that

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[Mr. K. N. Ramasubba Aiyar.]

is behind this matter. There are officers in charge of the treasuries concerned. We have not closed the treasuries and allowed people to suffer a serious inconvenience.

MR. K. I. JOSEPH (*Minachil* cum *Devicolam*): I wish to get a ruling from the President whether the question of leaving open these vacancies is only a matter concerning a few individuals or whether it is a matter of public interest on which members can question.

PRESIDENT: It is purely a domestic matter concerning the Government and their subordinate officers.

MR. K. I. JOSEPH (*Minachil* cum *Devicolam*): The question is whether I am allowed to ask supplementary questions in the light of considering it as a matter of public interest.

PRESIDENT; It is not a matter of public interest.

MR. K. I. JOSEPH (*Minachil* cum *Devicolam*): Am I to understand that my question does not relate to a matter of public interest?

PRESIDENT: No.

MR. K. I. JOSEPH (*Minachil* cum *Devicolam*): In that case Government could have disallowed my question.

PRESIDENT: You are entitled to ask a question and Government are entitled to give a reply to it. I shall bear your suggestion in mind in admitting your future questions.

MR. K. P. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Chirayinkil*): Would not efficiency suffer if the vacancies are kept open?

MR. K. N. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Financial Secretary to Government*): No, not at all.

MR. S. PIRAVIPERUMAL PILLAI (*Commerce and Industry, South*): I rise to a point of order. The member is asking a supplementary question.

MR. K. P. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Chirayinkil*): No. I am only stating a fact.

MR. S. PIRAVIPERUMAL PILLAI (*Commerce and Industry, South*): This is question time and it is not the time for stating a fact.

MR. K. P. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Chirayinkil*): A fact may be stated at any time. May I ask whether efficiency would not suffer in this case?

MR. K. N. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Financial Secretary to Government*): Efficiency has not suffered in this case.

MR. S. PIRAVIPERUMAL PILLAI (*Commerce and Industry, South*): I submit all this is out of order.

MR. K. N. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Financial Secretary to Government*): I may state—

MR. K. P. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Chirayinkil*): That is out of order. (Pointing his finger towards the member). Under the existing rules a

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member is not entitled to ask supplementary questions to the interpellation by another member. In view of the suggestion from the Chair a few days back I suggest that when the rules are modified provision may be made for every member being permitted to ask supplementary questions on the interpellation asked by one member.

Existence of Stibnite in Travancore,

102. **MR. K. P. NILAKANTA PILLAI** (*Chirayinkil*): With reference to the researches made by the Department of Industries, will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) whether the Geological Department has any information about the existence of stibnite in the State;

(*b*) if so, what search has been made for it;

(*c*) whether the Geological Department has, at any time, acquired a furnace and, if so, its cost; and

(*d*) whether any experiments were made with it and, if so, for what purposes and with what results?

MR. P. N. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Secretary to Government*): (*a*) The Department has no authentic information.

(*b*) No search has been made for it.

(*c*) Yes. Its cost is £3-8-9.

(*d*) It is used for assaying ores, melting metals and such other works as require a high temperature. It is not possible to give the results of the work done with a minor laboratory apparatus like a furnace.

MR. K. P. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Chirayinkil*): Has the Government any information about the existence of this mineral?

MR. P. N. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Secretary to Government*): There is no authentic information.

MR. K. P. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Chirayinkil*): Has the Government any information authentic or not authentic?

MR. P. N. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Secretary to Government*): No information whatever is available. No geologist has recorded the presence of this mineral.

MR. K. P. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Chirayinkil*): What is the purport of using the word authentic?

MR. P. N. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Secretary to Government*): That is exactly what it conveys. By saying that no authentic information is available I mean that nobody has recorded his opinion on this subject after survey. Some people may have made guesses.

MR. K. P. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Chirayinkil*): Has anybody given such an information to the Government or to the papers?

MR. P. N. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Secretary to Government*): There is no information whatever with regard to the existence of this particular substance.

MR. K. P. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Chirayinkil*): With regard to the furnace, may I know whether the furnace is being worked at present?

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